



Cape Fear Watchdog\$

Save the Cape urges senators to prohibit Southport port spending in budget

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Michael Rice, of the nonprofit Save the Cape, which opposes any new port being built in Brunswick County, spoke to the Senate Appropriations Committee Tuesday morning to make senators aware of what he called a “very substantial leak” in the proposed Senate budget for 2012-2013.

He told the committee, which took public comments as it met to consider the Senate budget, that the Senate spending plan doesn’t include language to prevent further spending on a deepwater port on the Cape Fear River near Southport. That project is on hold indefinitely and lawmakers have suggested that it has little or no chance of being built.

Save the Cape officials say without the language, money could be shifted at any time within the budget to fund a feasibility study for the Southport port. Proponents of the port are still pushing for a feasibility study.

The already-passed House version of the budget included a provision that would prevent any state spending on the N.C. International Terminal or any further studies of it.